

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 1-9 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Office Action indicated that claims 2-3 and 7-9 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, claims 2 and 7 have been rewritten in independent form. Applicant notes, however, that these claims have been revised to delete all “means” phraseology. Claim 3 depends from claim 2 and claims 8-9 depend from claim 7. Claims 2-3 and 7-9 are allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1, 4-6 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Ricco et al (U.S. ‘526, hereinafter “Ricco”) in view of Jansen (U.S. ‘623). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. The combination of Ricco and Jansen fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. For example, the combination fails to teach or suggest “wherein the capacitive element is connected to the plurality of electromagnetic loads in common,” as required by independent claim 1 and its dependents.

The above claim limitation is supported by, for example, Fig. 1 of the present application which illustrates a single capacitor C commonly connected to a plurality of loads Ai, each of which has an inductive element Li. Capacitor C stores recovery energy from the loads and stably supplies sufficient energy to each load in addition to energy provided from battery B.

In contrast, Ricco discloses a plurality of capacitors Ci connected respectively to a plurality of loads (actuators) Li as clearly illustrated in Fig. 2. Jansen discloses a plurality of capacitors 40b-40h in a voltage multiplier as clearly illustrated in Fig. 1. Accordingly, even if Jansen and Ricco were combined as proposed by the Office Action, the combination would not have taught or suggested a capacitive element being connected in common to a plurality of electromagnetic loads as required by claim 1 and its dependents.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that still pending claims 1 and 4-6 are not “obvious” over Ricco in view of Jansen, and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

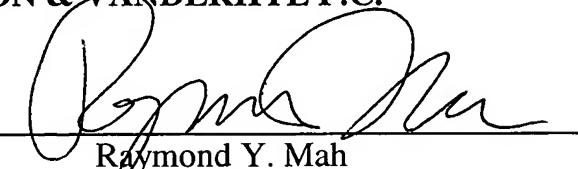
TOJO et al.
Application No. 10/716,493
December 29, 2004

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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